

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 6-24 are pending. Claims 6-24 stand rejected. In this response, applicant has amended claims 6-7, 10, 12, 18-19, and 23-24. Applicant has also added claims 25-28. Accordingly, claims 6-28 are presented for reconsideration.

Objections to the Specification

The Abstract is objected to for containing claim language. Applicant submits herewith an amended Abstract that overcomes this objection. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office states that the limitation "a certain external pressure" in claim 6 is unclear. Applicant has amended the claim and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office sets forth at page 3, paragraph 3, "Claims 6-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ochiai (US 6719569)." Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention as recited in claim 6 includes features not disclosed or suggested by Ochiai, namely:

...a non-conductive intermediate elastic sheet having a plurality of holes through it...

...two sheets each having an inner conductive face backing onto respective sides of said intermediate sheet so that they cover at least said plurality of holes leaving the respective inner conductive faces facing each other through said holes, so that when predetermined external forces are applied between said two sheets, by exerting a predetermined external pressure on at least one of said two sheets, at least one of said two sheets is deformed such that at least a portion of said inner conductive face of a first one of the sheets contacts directly or indirectly, at least a portion of said inner conductive face of a second one of the sheets through one or more of said plurality of holes to form at least one conductive circuit therebetween...

...at least one of said conductive faces comprises a plurality of conductive areas, each of said plurality of conductive areas overlying one or more of said plurality of holes based on a predetermined level of accuracy for the respective conductive

area regarding the location of the hole through which said
conductive contact has been made. (Emphasis Added)

These features are described in applicant's specification, for example, at page 4, line 8 through page 5, line 17.

Ochiai is relied upon as "[teaching] a non-conductive intermediate elastic sheet 1 having a plurality of holes 111 through it, two sheets with inner conductive faces 2 backing onto both sides of said intermediate sheet (fig. 1) so that they cover at least said holes leaving the respective inner conductive faces facing each other through said holes (fig. 1), so that when a certain external pressure (stresses interpreted as pressure) (abstract) is applied on said device it is deformed such that said inner conductive faces establish a conductive contact (fig. 6a) between them through one or more of said holes 11, therefore forming at least one conductive circuit 3 5 (abstract); and at least one of the conductive faces is distributed by conductive areas, each of them covering (fig. 6a) one or more of said holes 11 depending on whether more or less accuracy is desired (abstract), respectively, regarding the location of the hole through which said conductive contact has been made." Applicant respectfully disagrees with this overly broad interpretation of Ochiai. Rather, Ochiai discloses an intermediate connector comprising deformable contacts fixedly attached to a non-conductive sheet. These deformable contacts facilitate connection between an integrated circuit under test in a test fixture. Ochiai fails to disclose or suggest, however, two sheets each having an inner conductive face backing onto respective sides of the intermediate sheet so that they cover at least the plurality of holes leaving the respective inner conductive faces facing each other through the holes, so that when predetermined external forces are applied between the two sheets, by exerting a predetermined external pressure on at least one of the two sheets, at least one of the two sheets is deformed such that at least a portion of the inner conductive face of a first one of the sheets conductively contacts at least a portion of the inner conductive face of a second one of the sheets through one or more of the plurality of holes to form at least one conductive circuit therebetween.

In contrast, applicant's invention as recited in claim 6, requires two sheets each having an inner conductive face backing onto respective sides of the intermediate sheet so that they cover at least the plurality of holes leaving the respective inner conductive faces facing each other through the holes, so that when predetermined external forces are applied between the two sheets, by exerting a predetermined external pressure on at least one of the two sheets, at least one of the two sheets is deformed such that at least a portion of the

inner conductive face of a first one of the sheets contacts directly or indirectly, at least a portion of the inner conductive face of a second one of the sheets through one or more of the plurality of holes to form at least one conductive circuit therebetween.

It is because, applicant has included the features of two sheets each having an inner conductive face backing onto respective sides of the intermediate sheet so that they cover at least the plurality of holes leaving the respective inner conductive faces facing each other through the holes, so that when predetermined external forces are applied between the two sheets, by exerting a predetermined external pressure on at least one of the two sheets, at least one of the two sheets is deformed such that at least a portion of the inner conductive face of a first one of the sheets contacts directly or indirectly, at least a portion of the inner conductive face of a second one of the sheets through one or more of the plurality of holes to form at least one conductive circuit therebetween that applicant is able to provide a medically appropriate pressure sensitive sheet to assist medical personnel in helping patients avoid diabetic ulcers or decubitus ulcers, for example. Ochiai fails to provide this advantage because Ochiai does not include two sheets each having an inner conductive face backing onto respective sides of the intermediate sheet so that they cover at least the plurality of holes leaving the respective inner conductive faces facing each other through the holes, so that when predetermined external forces are applied between the two sheets, by exerting a predetermined external pressure on at least one of the two sheets, at least one of the two sheets is deformed such that at least a portion of the inner conductive face of a first one of the sheets contacts, directly or indirectly, at least a portion of the inner conductive face of a second one of the sheets through one or more of the plurality of holes to form at least one conductive circuit therebetween.

Applicant respectfully submits that because Ochiai fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of applicant's claimed invention, that claim 6 is not subject to rejection as being anticipated by Ochiai. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 7-24 depend directly or indirectly on claim 6 and, thus, are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 6.


Claims 25-28 are added. These claims find support in applicant's specification as originally filed and, thus, do not introduce new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 25-28 be entered and examined.

Regarding independent claim 25, although it is not identical to claim 6, it comprises features similar to those of claim 6 and, thus, is likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 6. Claims 26-28 are dependent upon claim 25 and are likewise allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 25.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



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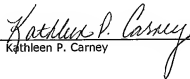
Attachment: Abstract

Dated: September 27, 2007

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 27, 2007.



Kathleen P. Carney